

## PATENT

Atty. Dkt. APPM/007669.P1/PPC/ECP/CKIM

~~1FW\$~~

~~~~~

1

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

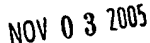
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the sum of \$180.00 due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/APPM/007669.P1/KMT.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Keith M. Tackett  
Registration No. 32,008  
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicant(s)



Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Form 1449A/PTO

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

|       |   |    |   |
|-------|---|----|---|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
|-------|---|----|---|

**Complete if Known**

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Application Number</b>     | 10/616,284                 |
| <b>Filing Date</b>            | July 8, 2003               |
| <b>First Named Inventor</b>   | Lois L. Zheng              |
| <b>Art Unit</b>               | 1741                       |
| <b>Examiner Name</b>          | Nira S. Birenbaum          |
| <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> | APPM/007669.P1/PPC/ECP/RKK |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**If you need assistance in completing this form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.**